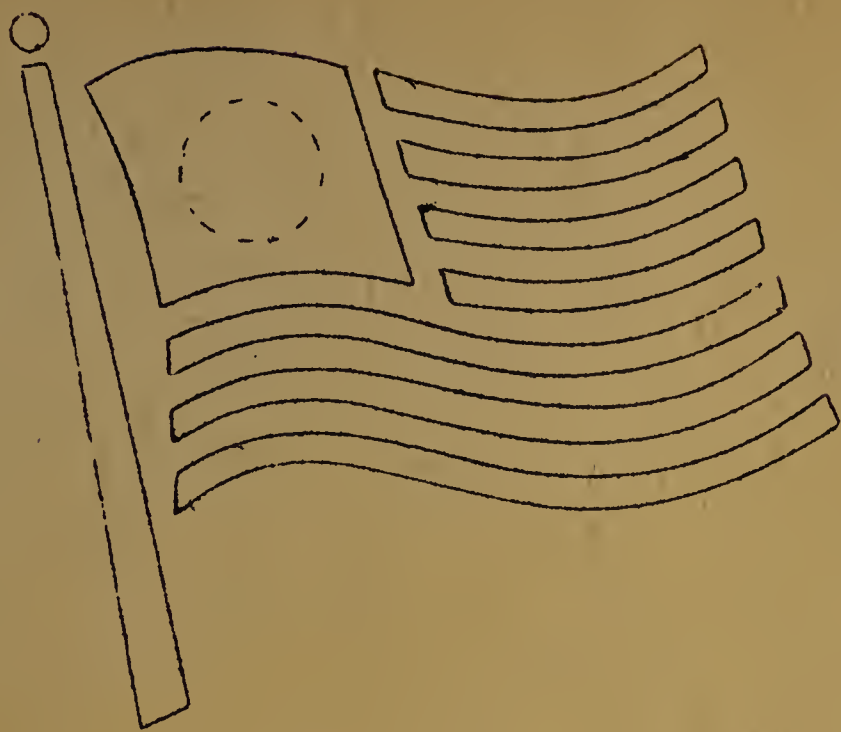


May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1976



Bicentennial  
Edition



History of  
Palestine, Ohio



# H I S T O R Y   O F   P A L E S T I N E

## Located in Liberty Township

The area of Liberty Township was first known as German Township, formed in December 1820. The area included about 33 square miles or over 21,000 acres of land. Prior to 1820 settlers from Pennsylvania and Virginia settled here. James Cloyd moved to this township and settled on the prairie, just South of the present site of Palestine in 1814. Jonathan Pearson settled on the prairie southeast of Palestine about 1816, but little was known of this man, who was perhaps the third settler. In the early days this township was a favorite resort for the Indians. On the arrival of the whites, several Indian camps were found, but within a few years, they disappeared. Old settlers affirm that a spring on the lands of Elias Ross was a special attraction, not only to the Indian, but to wild animals, on account of the purity and sweetness of its waters. Indications show at least two Indian Villages of considerable size within the present limits of the township. One of these was located in Section 10, and the other in Section 3, both near fine springs. Indian implements of great variety and in considerable abundance are found strewn over the surface in the vicinity. Remains of skeletons, supposed to have belonged to Indians, are found in abundance in many of the gravel banks, which have been opened up. One skull was found near the residence of Jesse Woods, of remarkable size.

The topography of the township shows that it possessed many points of interest and attraction; its running waters, its prairies and its gently rolling surface were points at once noticed by the quick searching eye of the pioneers and farmers, such as Peter Crumrine, Daniel Wagner, who was a soldier in war for independence, George Teaford and Martin Ketring, who were the largest farmers in the area. Other farmers were Henry Ross, George Stingley, George Kester, . Wear Cassady, J. Wenrick and John McNeill.

The first piece of ground platted for a village site in the township was located on the northwest quarter of Section 24. The survey was caused at the instance of Nathaniel Ross, and the incipient town at one time contained a saw and grist mill, a grocery and a store. Bright anticipations of churches, schools and factories were doomed to disappointment. A rival sprang up across the prairie, which in time proved its ruin, and New London City exists only in this brief allusion to it.

Palestine was laid out in 1833 by Samuel Loring and is the largest village remaining in the township. A beautiful view from the site of the present village is thought to have suggested the name. As early as 1820 a schoolhouse was erected on the southwest quarter of Section 14. The residents of German township have always taken much interest in educational matters. The first teacher was William R. Jones. The second schoolhouse was built in 1822, on the northwest quarter of





Section 13. The first graduating class had four members in 1906 and all were girls. A new brick school house was erected having six rooms, at a cost of about \$15,000 in 1913, which is still being used. located on the south side of Cross Street near the western limits of the village of Palestine. This school became a second grade high school in 1914 with six graduates. In 1919 it became a First Grade High School with nine pupils graduating. The last graduating class consisted of 19 members in 1952.

There is a settlement of colored people in the northwestern part of this township which dates its origin from 1822, when James Clemens came from Rockingham County, Virginia, which county had passed a law that all free-born colored people should leave the state. Clemens entered 320 acres of land. He married Sophoria Sellers, of his home county, and became the father of ten children, five sons and five daughters. Three of his sons, Charles, William and Perry, became ministers of the gospel. Being attracted by the location and natural resources of this part of the country, other colored families soon followed Clemens, among who were Reuben Bass and wife, who came from Builford County, North Carolina in 1823, and entered 200 acres of land. They were the parents of eight children. John Randles and wife and Thornton Alexander and wife of Virginia were also among the early settlers, who entered a considerable amount of government land. From this comparatively small beginning the settlement has grown until now it contains about 450 inhabitants, with two churches, four school houses and a number of prosperous homes. This settlement has extended into Indiana formerly supported an academy known as the Union Literary Institute, which about forty years ago was in a flourishing condition. Soon very prominent men of both the white and colored races were educated here and went out into the world to fill places of honor in nearly all walks of life, as judges, lawyers, doctors, bishops, presidents of colleges, etc. The older people of the settlement now look back on this institution with pride and recognize that it was one of the means of holding the settlement together, providing several hundred acres of land and helping to establish a better school system. Tampico, the principal village in this settlement, was laid out in 1850. The people are generally religious, industrious, patriotic and temperate and have advanced moral ideals, commanding the respect of the general populace.

The oldest known organization in Liberty Township which is still active is The Washington & German Townships Self-Protective Association of Darke County, Ohio, which was organized February 16, 1895. Members today total 19, meeting once a year in December.

The early custom of burial at sites near the homes has originated a number of grounds in the township. There are eight cemeteries in the township, of which the one at Palestine is the largest.





The first religious meetings in German Township were held in the cabins of the settlers. The pioneer preacher was Jacob Ashley, of the Lutheran Church. He came up once a month from Germantown and held services, for which he received a salary of \$12 per year. David Miller, first minister of the Miami Valley and Benjamin Bowman from Indiana spoke to the people of things eternal and spiritual. They were ministers of the German Baptist Church. The first church built in the township was known as the "St. Johns" a Lutheran enterprise, erected in 1826, south of Palestine, on land owned by John Ketring. The old structure was constructed of tree-trunks cut from the forest surrounding, but in 1868 this was supplanted by a more comfortable and pretentious frame building. The Universalist Church at Palestine was organized by Rev. Elihu Moore and ten others, on June 18, 1868. The minister named was the one first employed. Their first meetings were held in the old Palestine schoolhouse. Within a few years subsequent to the organization, the society erected their present fine building, at a cost of about \$3,000.

The Palestine Christian Church was organized in the year 1836, by Elijah Williamson, with a small membership. The first meetings were held in an old schoolhouse. Mr. Williamson and Richard Brandon were the first ministers. James Woods, Thomas Himes, John Crum, Joseph Heck, Henry Grove and their wives and Philip Manuel were among the first members. The present meeting house was built in 1859, and the society had an enrollment of approximately 103 members around the year 1880.

The population of the area have been peaceful and law abiding, hence any infraction of right is, the more marked. Two crimes have been committed. The victims were Wesley Guyer and Stephen Wade. On the evening of October 24, 1877, after dusk, a body of armed and masked men halted before the house of Mr. Guyer in Palestine, called him out, and deliberately shot him down. Where the mob was from, where they went, or who they were has never been ascertained. The murder had no grounds so far as known save a charge of petty thieving. The second murder was committed in the dead of night in the fall of 1878. Stephen Wade, a colored man was shot in his own house by a body of mounted men, masked and armed. He was charged with stealing, or more especially with harboring his sons, who had annoyed the community by various thefts.

The staple products of the township were corn and wheat, with considerable oats and barley raised. Much of the corn was fed to stock. There was no grain market in the township; the nearest being Weaver's Station in Neave Township, on the Piqua, Cincinnati & Indianapolis Railroad. In the early days, what surplus grain was raised was hauled by team either to Dayton or Piqua, and later, to Richmond, Indiana. No line of railroad had been constructed through the township. The first saw mill was erected by Joshua Mitten in 1820 on Section 24 on West Branch. Some years after, this mill had been built, an apparatus for cracking corn was attached to it and this was noted as the pioneer grist-mill of the township. A copper still was erected on Section 36, by John Puterbaugh. A cheese factory was soon started at the same place and by the same person. The earliest attempt at raising fruit trees in this area was made by Henry Ross of German Township in 1817. One of the largest and most successful orchards around 1910 was owned by the Shields brothers and located about half a mile west of Palestine.

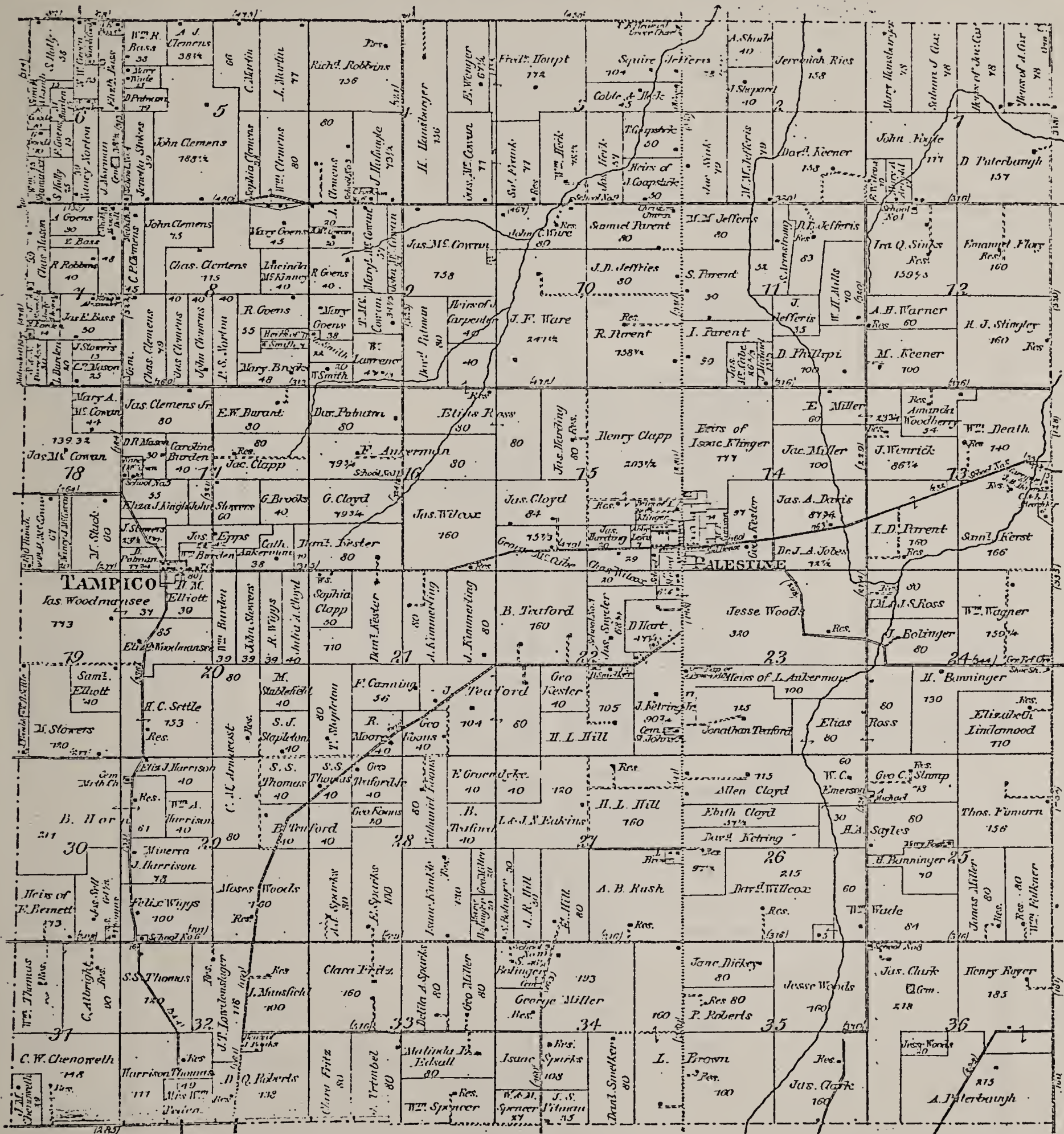




Town 11

Page 1

*Scale 3 Inches to the Mile*

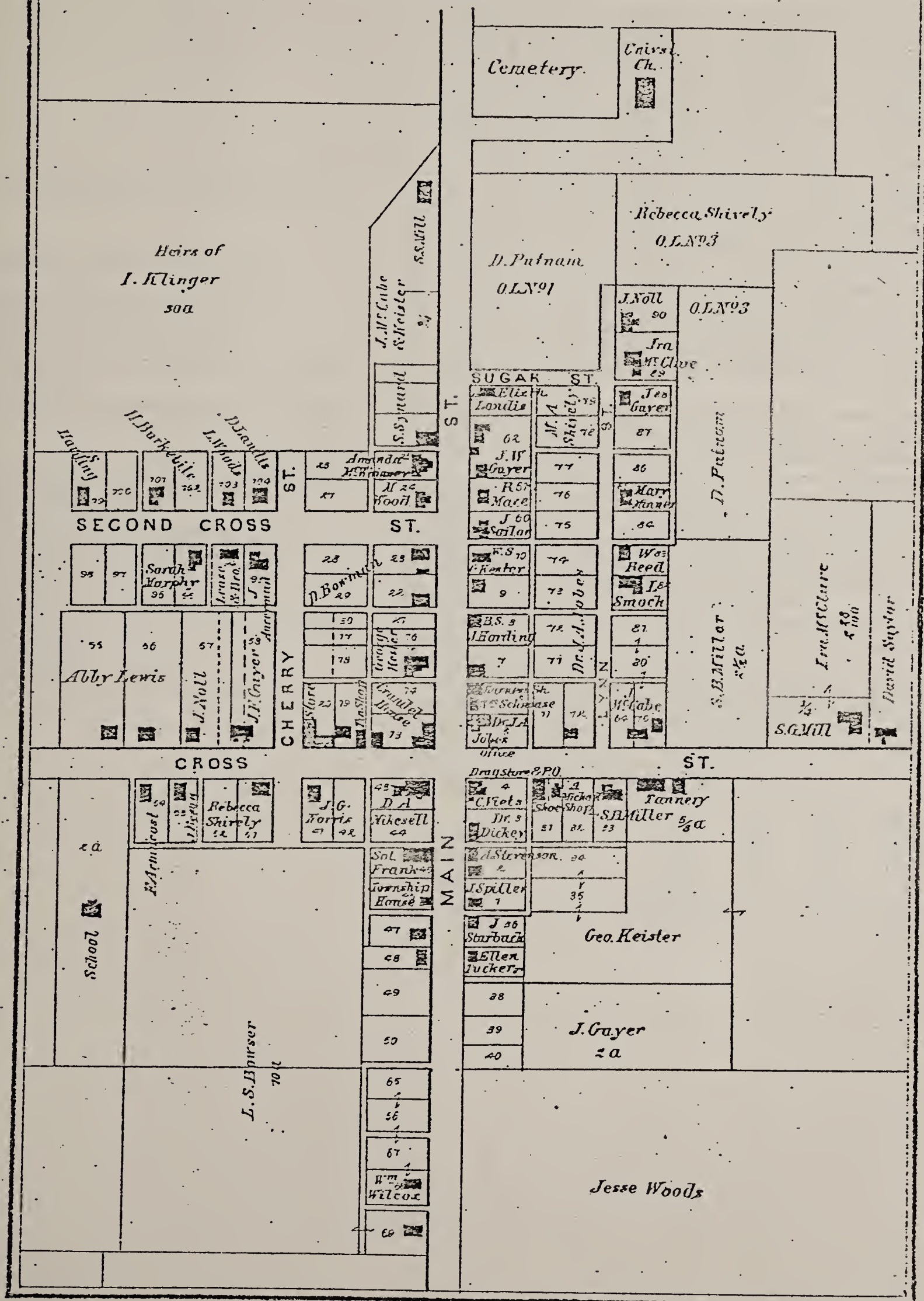






# PALESTINE

(German Trwp) GERMAN P.O. Scale 20 Rods to an Inch







## GERMAN TOWNSHIP

Was formed in Dec. 1820, and was bounded on the east, south, and west by the Congressional township lines, and on the north by a line 40 rods north of the Whitewater road, and following the turns thereof. In June, 1827, German Township was made to include all of T. 11 N., as it does to-day. In Dec. 1833, the northern tier of sections was thrown into Washington Township, but was taken back in Dec. 1834.

Jonathan Pearson and Martin Ketring, who came in 1815, were the first settlers in the township. Some claim, however, that Samuel Loring, who settled where Palestine now stands, came earlier than they, but 1817 is the probable date. John McNeill, Jas. Cloyd, Jas. Woods, Wear Cassady, and John Wagoner were early settlers. Daniel Wagoner, still living, remained alone, during the winter of 1817 and 1818, taking care of his father's cattle. He had two dogs and his gun for company, and for neighbors three families of Indians, who were camped a few hundred yards from his cabin. He helped to build the first church and school-house that was erected in the township.

The first school-house was built in 1820, near Palestine, on land now owned by heirs of Isaac Klinger. A second school-house was built in 1822, on land now owned by Emanuel Miller. The first teacher was Wm. R. Jones. There are now 11 school-houses in the township, besides one at Palestine. By the enumeration of Sept. 1874, the total number of school children in the township was 681, divided as follows: in Palestine 66 white males and 72 white females—total 138. In the remainder of the township 193 white and 90 colored males, 184 white and 76 colored females—total 543.

Religious meetings were held in houses much earlier, but no church building was erected till 1826. This was built by the Lutherans, on John Ketring's farm, in Sec. 22. There is a church standing on the same ground at the present time. There are now 8 churches in the township, divided among the various denominations as follows: 2 Methodist (1 African), 1 Dunkard, 1 German Reformed, 1 United Brethren, 1 Lutheran, 1 Christian, and a Universalist in Palestine.

The last census of the township is as follows:—

	Total.	Native.	Foreign.	White.	Black.
German Township . .	1743	1718	25	1339	404
Palestine " . .	264	255	9	264	
Tampico " . .	67	65	2	24	43

There are in the township about 62 miles of road, 27 of which are pike.

COPIED FROM PLAT BOOK DATED 1875

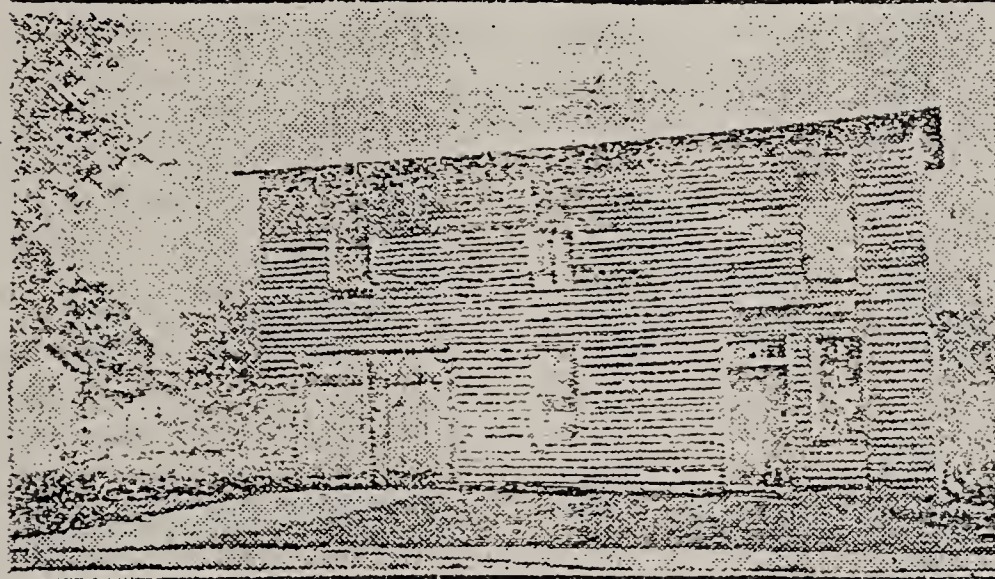
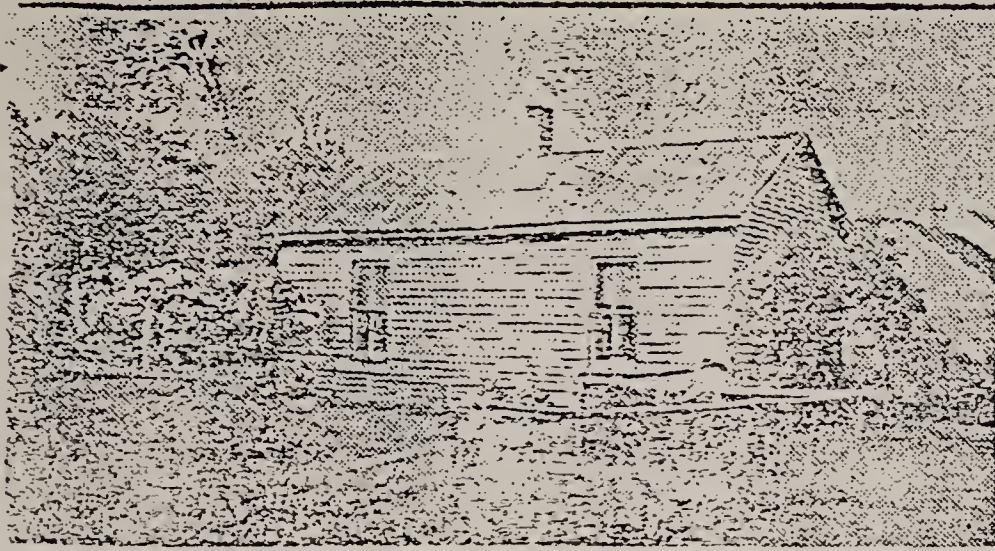
### Palestine Business Directory.

- Joseph Burgess, Proprietor of Crandell House.  
 Edmond Lockett, Teacher and Engineer.  
 J. A. Jones, M.D., Physician and Surgeon.  
 James McCabe & Keister, Proprietors of Steam Saw Mill. Manufacturers of Lumber, and Dealers in Lumber and Logs.  
 Ira McClure, Proprietor of Steam Grist Mill. Manufacturer of Flour, Feed, and Meal, &c., Dealer in Grain.  
 S. B. Miller, Proprietor of Tannery. Manufacturer of all kinds of Domestic Leather. Manufacturer of Boots and Shoes. Notary Public and Justice of the Peace, Township Clerk.  
 Dr. Chas. Viets, Physician and Druggist.  
 James Harding, Blacksmithing of all kinds done to order. Shop on East Main Street.  
 A. B. Rush, Physician, Farmer, and Stock Dealer. Post Office, New Madison.  
 Henry Banninger, Manufacturer of Boots and Shoes. Repairing neatly done. Shop Sec. 24, 2½ miles S. E. of Palestine.  
 Eli Armacost, Teacher and Surveyor.  
 J. W. Shively, Butcher and Dealer in Meats.





*PALESTINE IS MORE THAN 100 YEARS OLD*



The two pictures reproduced above and township are consolidated in a show two of the most interesting centralized school in Palestine. places, which attracted wide attention at Palestine on the occasion of the celebration of that village's one hundredth birthday recently.

The top picture is the first hewed log house erected in Palestine and the lower one shows the old house in which Wesley Gugel was accidentally killed many years ago.

The village of Palestine, which is located in Liberty township is one of the most important villages in Darke county. It is known far and wide by the inhabitants of the county and is located in one of the richest farming sections of the county.

Palestine was laid out in 1833 by Samuel Loring. The name was chosen as a memorial to the Holy Land, because of its beautiful location and view. Probably the first settler in the township was James Cloyd, who arrived in that community in 1814. He was followed by Jonathan Pearson, Peter Crumrine, Daniel and William Wagner, Martin Ketring, George Teaford and George Stingley, most of whom have descendants still living in the township.

The first school house was built a short distance northeast of Palestine. Others followed it, but today educational facilities of the village

The first church built was the St. John's church, just south of Palestine. There are now eight churches in the township.

The village and township have produced many men and women who are noted throughout the county for their business, agricultural, educational ability and for their honesty, integrity and uprightness.





# Darke Co. Pioneer Boasts Fine Memory

A few minutes' talk with Mrs. Malinda Wilcox, 92, of Palestine, Darke co., not only shows how lovely old ladies can be, but, like a chime of bells from the haunts of ancient peace, is her story of the Ketrings, Teaford and Wilcox families.

They were the "salt of the earth," these grand old citizens, who, with ax and wooden mould-board plow, put Darke co. on its way to agricultural supremacy 130 years ago. As Grandma Wilcox talks come memories of David Ketrings, who came to this section with his father from Fairfield co. and who, after marrying Martha Brant, born in Preble co., had born to them the twins, that died, and Elizabeth, Joseph, Malinda, Jane, Phoebe, Benjamin, Clarissa and Martha, who helped their parents make their farm in West Branch prairie the best in all the country round.

And of George Teaford, who came to this fertile acreage along with the Ketrings, later marrying Magdalena Ketrings, and whose 12 children, among them also a set of twins, who, by their habits of thrift "soon owned all the land that joined them." And of James Wilcox, native of Germantown, Montgomery co., who came to Palestine in an early period and whose illustrious father, one James Wilcox, sr., of Stephen Girard's shop, Philadelphia, made the pair of fine boots, costing \$40, that Henry Clay wore at the Treaty of Ghent. And how, later, this sire, seized with the wanderlust, landed at Cincinnati with but 50 cents in his pocket and all his earthly possessions tied up in a silk handkerchief.

He came on foot to Germantown, where he made good at his vocation, later moving to Preble co. for a try at farming. At last he went to Palestine, where he was successful at farming and saw-milling until his passing. Grandma Wilcox remembers many of these folk tales and is just as bright as the proverbial dollar, in spite of her 92 years.

"Of all the diseases we used to fear," said Mrs. Wilcox, "typhoid fever was the worst. Now auto accidents take more lives than did the fever. Palestine once supported four doctors—Tennell, Sater, Rush and Calderwood; now we get along without any, trusting to Greenville physicians to cure our ills. In the way of styles I favor ear-bobs and think they are pretty, but if there is anything I detest, it is lipstick. The thing I abhor most of all is cigaret smoking by women. This usually leads to an argument with my granddaughter, Helen, here, who brings up something about the matrons and gran-ies who used to smoke clay pipes, and then we change the subject.

"I think the church has changed the greatest, socially, in my lifetime. More so, possibly, than the school. There are more social activities centered around the present day church than in my youth. It used to be just church; now it can be a soft ball game, picnic, entertainment, visit to another

Above, all that's left of old Crandall tavern, Palestine. Below, right, Mrs. Malinda Wilcox, 92-year-old resident of Palestine. Left, Mrs. Helen Gilbert, granddaughter.

conference, young people's meeting and the like.

"I enjoyed my school days, although they were not the social centers schools are today, with their P.-T.-A.'s, games and what not. We used to rely mostly on dancing to furnish the necessary "fillip" for the young. I started to dance at the age of 9. My older sister's husband taught me to dance. Most of the dances were held in the homes and I think my love for music got me interested in dancing quicker than anything else could have done. I never lacked partners once I grew up. All my brothers and sisters were musicians, and when my children grew up they, too, were musically inclined. Now my granddaughter, Helen, here, helps to keep me young with her lively music.

"Any device that helps to make farm work easier still interests me. I think electricity has done more to brighten my last years than any other of the great discoveries. I am so nearly blind that I could not get around if it were not for the blessing of electric lights. And there is the electric iron. I still love to iron, and I could not have this solace if it were not for this new contraption. The radio is a filler-in for many an hour that would be dreary, indeed. I like the old musical program best, especially the R. F. D. hour, Amos 'n' Andy, Lum and Abner, Lowell Thomas and, in fact, any program that has real live jokes. Banjo music on the radio appeals the most to me, because the notes are picked out so distinctly, enabling me to hear them better.

"The most interesting period of my life was when I operated the old Crandall tavern here in Palestine. That was in the early years of my married life, and although a part of the old structure is still standing, it looks as if the wind could shake it to bits most any time. Christmas, New Years and the Fourth of July were the highlights of the dear, dear

day. It was then the 'social elect' of Greenville would gather at the old Crandall inn. They paid \$2 for a ticket that admitted two to partake of a gorgeous supper—we did not call them dinners—and dance all night, 'til broad daylight, if they felt like it. The crowd usually had a private room upstairs—tch! tch! The music consisted of two local violin and one bass viol player, and the merriment was always clean and wholesome. One thing that stands out above all else in the old tavern days concerns the maid of all work, who used to wash up all the dishes after the great repasts and to whom I would give quantities of left-over dainties and who progressed socially enough to occupy rooms in the remodeled tavern later.

"I was married just at the close of the Civil War, and depressing times were in evidence then as much as they are today. I remember making my own wedding cake and sweetening it with cane sorghum molasses. I do not think young people have changed much since my day and age. I try to be as modern in my interests as they are and I'm not always harping about how this and that was when I was a girl; in fact, I don't want it to be. I think this is a grand old world, if we could just cut out the wars and the dreadful motor accidents and kidnappings. And I think our Palestine of today is a very respectable little town."





## QUIPS & QUOTES

In 1903 three of the businesses that advertised in the German Grange Cook Book were Palestine Roller Mills by C. Cable & Company: Ross & Jefferis, Hardware, Buggies, Farm Implements: The Palestine Daily Meat Market, proprietor W. E. Kester.

The 1910 Plat Book (Palestine Directory Section) listed Charles Harris, Mayor: Harley Monks, Clerk: Charles Stover, Treasurer: Levi Loyd, Marshall. Councilmen were Henry Hiper, John Ackerman, John Parent, Harry Judy, Harvey Hill, Norman Teaford. Churches listed were Christian Church, and Universalist Church. Businesses were : BARBER SHOP, Albert Shields, Prop., E.Broad St.: BLACKSMITH SHOPS, Henry Hiper, N.Main, Oliver Harter, N.Main: DRY GOODS STORE, A.S.Parent, Prop., E.Broad: FEED BARNS, J.C.Ross, Prop., N.Main: GROCERIES, Charles Overholser, Broad: HARNESS SHOP, L.P.Star, Prop., Broad. MEAT MARKET, W.E.Kester, Prop., Broad and PHYSICIAN, Charles Baker, W.Broad.

The name of German Township was changed to Liberty Township between April and September, 1918. Col. Bill North addressed the residents in the center of town, regarding the changing of the name, due to the War.

### ACCORDING TO LOCAL RESIDENTS:

In 1890 a group of women marched into one of the taverns with axes and proceeded to destroy the contents.

The story of the shooting of Wesley Guyer told by boys that were playing "Red Light" in Palestine that evening. There were at least 8 boys that lived a mile West of Palestine playing with the town boys that night. It was very dark. They reported that suddenly a number of white Masked Horsemen quietly appeared and hid their horses and proceeded across the street in front of the Guyer home and called Guyer to come out; which he did. Immediately there was a volley of shots and Guyer fell, and the Horsemen disappeared as quietly as they had come without any communication. The boys ran home and as one mother explained that she thought a pack of horses were coming down the road. The boys ran upstairs, jumped into bed, covering up their heads and screamed, "lock the doors, we are going to be killed". They then explained what they had witnessed

Submitted by Adavier Wilcox

Jerry Norris was the lamp lighter and barber in town.

The Indian Chief that signed the Treaty of Greenville lived South of Palestine.

Col. Putman after returning from the War brought a talking parrot, which he hung on his porch on the building which is now the tavern and when farmers came to town their dogs would follow. The parrot would call to the dogs and when he had a group of dogs together he would say "Sickem" and one big dog fight would break out.

Submitted by Herman Ross

The first telephone was in McCabe's grocery, which was located just East of the present grocery, according to Omar Dill.





Palestine in the early part of the century was a very prosperous village. But bear in mind, at that time we were from forty-five minutes to one and a half hours from Greenville, depending on how good of a horse you might have.

Surprising as it may sound, many of the village residents went to Greenville twice a year, to pay their taxes; perhaps at Christmas time to do some shopping and probably to the Darke County Fair in August. Other than that many of the people did not get very far from home.

At that time the village boasted of a two story school building, which stood where the six room building now stands; two prosperous churches, three doctors, three general stores, a butcher shop, a barber shop, three blacksmith shops, a woodworking or wagon shop, a leatherworking or harness shop, a saw mill, a flour mill, post office, a livery stable, a hotel and a rooming house. Not to mention at one time from one to three saloons. There was also a tinner's shop.

The fire bell which now stands in front of the fire house was purchased in 1915 and erected on a wooden structure on the south side of Cross Street, West of Main. When this street became a state route, and or U.S. highway, it became necessary to move the bell. It was moved to a place in the alley behind the township building on the north side of East Main Street. It was placed on a much higher steel structure donated by Ben T. Miller. There it remained in use until it was replaced by the electric siren. The fire bell was also used to notify council members of their meeting nights.

The first cement sidewalk, which is still in use, was on the north side of Cross Street from the Norman Teaford residence at the west edge of town to the east line of the property now owned by Marvin Oda. I do not recall the year, but it is incised in the cement at the west end of the walk.

Also at this time most of the residents had a horse, perhaps two, a cow, some chickens and probably one to three pigs to supply the winter meat.

Some of the village boys would herd the cows along the country roads. Taking them out in the morning and back in the evening. The cows would know and walk up to their respective barn doors.

Submitted by

Chalmer N. Harding

May, 1976





# Palestine Centennial

## 1933 Celebration Is Closed

Two-Day Program Commemorating 100th Anniversary of Ohio Town Is Witnessed by Large Crowd—  
Col. North Pleads for Conservation

By ALFRED HALL  
Staff Correspondent

PALESTINE, Ohio, Oct. 23.—The two day program commemorating the town's centennial year came to a close Sunday with appropriate exercises witnessed by a large crowd in attendance during the afternoon. The parade, band concert, old fiddlers' contest, potato race, ball game and balloon ascension and other activities followed one another in rapid succession which kept the crowd unmindful of the inclement weather that caught many of the visitors unprepared for the chilly breezes.

Col. William North, of Greenville, principal speaker of the afternoon warned the people of their mode of living which is bringing on much of the so-called depression and pleaded with them to go back to the conservative ways of their ancestors such as started the town and made the country what it was.

"Very few people are doing anything at present," he said. "We are all following leaders and do not know the leaders. If the leaders are blind and the Bible is true as we know it is, it is a case of the blind leading the blind and you know the inevitable results."

Mr. North emphasized his remarks by saying, "You can not run a store or a city or a state or a country without serious thought and the fact that the most of us refuse to think causes us to be in the hands of a few who guide the destinies of the masses. Just the other day I was present when a man read the plans for a \$189,000 sewage system for a town which could not pay an \$18,000 debt due. It was like a man wearing diamonds and padded pants."

In speaking of the agricultural situation Mr. North who has sold farm chattels in over 8,000 barn lots in his career (and many of these sales were among the last sad rites of agricultural failures) was in a position to know the cause of much of the agricultural depression and spoke of the conditions as follows:

"Not long ago I was called to the home of a widow who was surrounded by her children lamenting her fate of having a \$42,000 debt on a farm left to her free from in-

cumbrance and wanted to know the cause. I told her the reason was that her husband in his life time put his gasoline in the haymow while her children put it in tanks.

"The fine horses her husband raised and the high grade cattle on the place which I sold at the sale was the cause of keeping up the fertility of the farm by natural means and kept the farmer on his feet. Now friends you may not like my views but the greatest eulogy you can place on my little headstone after I am gone is here lies one who has the courage of his convictions."

Two bands, Stelvideo and Ansonia, furnished the concert from the stage erected upon the public square and following Colonel North's address the old fiddlers braved the chilly blasts to revive, "Turkey in the Straw," "The Devil's Dream," "Arkansas Traveler," "Fishers Hornpipe" and various other old time melodies. Owing to the inclement weather only three, John West, W. A. Wentworth and James Dempsey took part. After the crowd had yelled lustily for all, the judges finally decided Mr. Dempsey received a voice or two more than his competitors and was awarded the decision.

An original poem on Palestine was read by Miss Viola Hoke following the contest and a history of the town was read by Mr. Royer. The potato race by five girls and five boys proved quite a diversion and the ball game at the close of the exercises kept the crowd to a late hour.

The management had collected a rare display of antiques at the town hall which was crowded at all times during the day. Many of the farm implements as well as household articles over 100 years old and made by hand were on display.

Lacey Saylor, master of ceremonies kept the program running smoothly and the crowd from growing impatient. Homer Ross, who was manager of the colt show the day before which was considered the best show of its kind this year in either Ohio or Indiana and also was leader of the Sunday parade wished to thank the people for the hearty co-operation they had given the officials of the program.

# Palestine Centennial

## Celebration Planned

PALESTINE, Ohio, Oct. 14.—Plans are moving forward rapidly for the observance of the centennial anniversary of this town on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 21 and 22. A number of committees have been named to arrange for numerous events to form parts of the celebration, and these committees report the program well advanced.

Principal speakers scheduled to take part in the program for the two days are Rev. C. W. Hoeffler, Rev. Frank Royer, pastor of the local Christian church, and Col. W. E. North, of Greenville.

Arrangements for the celebration are being headed by Ben T. Miller, general chairman, who is assisted by a committee composed of Herschel Jeffries, secretary; Verle Hiatt, Chalmer Mosier, Flory Mills, Willard Parent and Lacey Saylor.

A tire marathon at 10 a. m. Saturday will start the program. The contest is open to boys up to 14 years of age. Contestants will start from Greenville, New Madison, Hollandburg, Sharp Eye, and the Ohio-Indiana state line.

The next event will be a coon chase at 10:30 o'clock, open to all dogs. A colt show will take place at 12 o'clock. Everyone is invited to enter his colts. A pulling contest will be held at 1:30 p. m. Teams will pull according to their weight.

At 2:30 p. m. the Palestine Independents will play the Arcanum nine at the local ball park. An old time dance will be given Saturday night in the K. of P. hall. A horseshoe tournament and checker tournament will be in progress both days.

On Sunday an antique parade will

open the program at 10 a. m. Col. W. E. North will deliver an address at 1:30 p. m. At 2 p. m. there will be an old fiddlers' contest.

Another ball game will be played at 2:30 p. m. with Palestine stacking up against the Greenville Merchants. There will be a balloon ascension at 4:30 p. m.

Committees in charge of special events have been named as follows:  
Colt Show—Verle Hiatt and Homer Ross.

Coon Chase—Roscoe Lane, Ed Lindemood, Ollie Leedom and Dan Cotter.

Pulling Contest—Carry Flatter and Herschel Jeffries.

Baseball—Walter Bratschi.

Antique Parade—Merle Becker and Flory Mills.

Checker Tournament—Claude Hayes.

Horseshoe Pitching—Cleo Spencer and Damon Aukerman.

High School Band Contest—W. O. Parent and Verle Hiatt.

Old Fiddlers—Jesse Woods.

It is announced that on both Saturday and Sunday nights a masquerade dance will be held. Merchants of the community are co-operating to provide interest in the various contests. The public will be invited to take part in the festivities.





## PALESTINE - LIBERTY TOWNSHIP - 1976

Palestine today is a unique, small village with approximately 250 residents. The streets are lighted with fluorescent street lights, however there haven't been too many changes in the last few decades.

There is a lighted ball park at the west edge of town provided in 1948 by the Palestine Recreation Park, Inc.

The K. of P. building built in 1907 should bring back many memories of dances during the 40's to several. The K of P's sold this building in 1973.

In 1970 the Liberty Township trustees obtained the first yellow fire truck in Darke County, which is housed in Palestine, manned by the Volunteer Fire Department.

The Palestine Alumni meet once a year at the once known Palestine High School Building which had graduating classes from 1906 to 1952. The Tri-Village Elementary students now attend classes here.

The two churches are the Church of Christ, organized in 1873 and the Church of God. The older section of the Church of Christ was razed the first of May this year and is to be rebuilt by the end of summer.

The Post Office is in the Palestine Exchange building with Mr. Lee Graham being Post Master.

The Town Council provided a new playground in 1975 on Main Street, for games of tennis, basket-ball, volley-ball, etc.

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bob Neiswonger	Lonnie Burns
Joe Marshall	Albert Schepis
George Kreitzer	Bill Perry

MAYOR -----	Bob Wilson
TREASURER -----	Paul Rush
CLERK -----	Omar Dill

### LIBERTY TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

Otis Rismiller	Maze Clemens	Paul Runner
	Mary Brewer, Clerk	

### BUSINESS DIRECTORY OF 1976

Rush's Grocery (since 1951) - - - - -	Paul Rush
Red & Ruth's Tavern (since 1968) - - - - -	Harley Twaits
Palestine Exchange - Implement Dealer - - - - -	Lee Graham
Jill's Beauty Shop - - - - -	Jill Schepis
Manuel's Electric Shop - Motors & Lawnmowers - - - - -	Bob Manuel
Kreitzer's Garage - - - - -	George Kreitzer
Palestine Super Service - - - - -	Glen Winterrowd & Philip Manuel
"Little Jim's CB Sales" - - - - -	Brewers' Sound Service - Don Brewer
Bob Schlechty - Locksmith	

\*Information in foregoing obtained from History Books of Darke County, Plat Books and Newspaper Articles and Residents. H.Graham & A.Mikesell





1976

TOWNSHIP 11-N. RANGE 1-E.

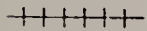
LIBERTY

LEGEND

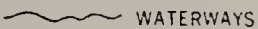


FEDERAL, STATE or INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS

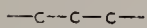
COUNTY or TOWNSHIP ROADS



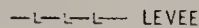
RAILROADS



WATERWAYS



CANAL



LEVEE

CEMETERY

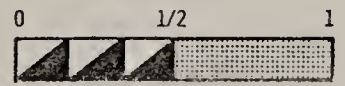
INCORPORATED CITY, VILLAGE or BURROUGH

SMALL TRACTS

SUBDIVISIONS

DWELLING or FARM UNIT

SCALE IN MILES



WASHINGTON

GREENVILLE - NASHVILLE

SEE PAGE 37

NASHVILLE

TWP.

INDIANA

OF

STATE

TWP.

SEE PAGE 21

GREENVILLE

TWP.

SEE PAGE 31

NEW MADISON - COLETON

NEAVE

HARRISON

SEE PAGE 25

TWP.

